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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Those trying to oppose the proposed settlement are using the judicial system for political purpose. This is particularly true in the case of the attorney general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Thomas Reilly. He is the worst attorney general we have had in the 47 years I have been able to vote. His record as a consumer advocate has been terrible. I find it disgraceful that he is arguing that the current settlement is not in the consumers best interests when his real purpose is raise campaign funds from Microsoft's competitors in Massachusetts such as IBM (Lotus). Reilly is notorious for his involvement in only high visibility cases which promote his political career. The best current evidence of this are the Microsoft settlement and the sale of the Boston Red Sox. He is appealing to local business interest who can contribute to his campaign for governor.

I am a Mac user who has been involved in the technology industry all my career. While Microsoft is aggressive in the marketplace, the consumer has benefitted from increased performance at lower prices whether a PC or Mac customer. Competitors such as IBM(Lotus) and AOL(Netscape) are not suffering from competition but from poor management or governmental meddling. Hundreds of software companies have prospered as a result of Micosoft operating systems and applications. The original case was a personal vendetta by young lawyers in the DOJ trying to make a name for themselves, not public servants looking to protect the consumer. The best case in point is Klein. Do you think he ever would have gotten his current position with out the visibility of the Microsoft case.

Most antitrust cases brought by the DOJ have resulted in damage to the consumer and the industry. Just look at the IBM and ATT cases. IBM faltered as a result of energies drained by its prolonged battle with the DOJ with no winner and gross damage to stockholders and innovation in the industry. The ATT settlement was long held up as an example of how the government can successfully restructure an industry but not now. Within a very short period of time we have seen a long distance market in shambles with companies losing billions and a reconsolidation of the local business into a few, soon to be two, regional monopolies. Prices for service particularly in the local loop have sky rocketted and service has declined. So much for the example the DOJ has used for years.

It is time to move on. Industry is what makes the US economy grow not government and certainly not our judicial system. Most people are alarmed at how justice in the US has been bought. Don't let the lobbyists buy you through their support of nine politically motivated attorneys general. Leave the settlement as is and in 20 years it will

be merely a footnote in the history books.

Thank you,

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